

therefore all the world will have justified Congress for their first act of removing the uncertainty by declaring what they understood by the term; but the uncertainty once removed exists no longer, and I very much doubt a right to change the value, and especially to lessen it. It would lead to so easy a mode of paying off the debts, besides the points injured by the reduction of the value would have so much matter to urge in support of the first point of fixation. Should it be thought, however, that Congress may reduce the value of the dollar, I should be for adopting for our unit, instead of the dollar, either one ounce of pure silver, or one ounce of standard silver, so as to keep the unit of money a part of the system of measures, weights and coins. (To Alexander Hamilton, 1792. C, III.,

330.) BIMETALLISM.—See
Money.

BISHOPS.—A modern bishop to be moulded into a primitive one must be elected by the people, undioeesed, unrevenued, unlorded. (From Notes on Religion, 1776. F. II., 98.)

BLOCKADE.—Nor does this doctrine contravene the right of preventing vessels from entering a blockaded port. This right stands on other ground. When the fleet of a nation actually beleaguers the port of its enemy, no other has a right to enter their line, any more than their line of battle in the open sea, or their line of circumvallation, or of encampment, or of battle array on land, The space included within their lines in any of those cases is either the property of their enemy, or it is common property assumed and possessed for the moment, which cannot be intruded on, even by a neutral, without committing the very trespass we are now considering, that of intruding into the lawful possession of a friend. (To the United States Minister to France, 1801. F. VIII., 90.)

BONAPARTE.—Perhaps it is now to be wished that Bonaparte may be spared, as, according to his protestations, he is for liberty, equality and representative government, and he is more able to keep the nation together and ride out the storm than any other. Perhaps it may end in their establishing a single representative and that in his person. I hope it will not be for